IRONDALE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Bark Lake Cultural Developments

February / March '24

Bark Lake Cultural Developments

Charitable No.
80487 0087 RR0001

Incorporation No.
1871121

historical@IrondaleOntario.ca

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Advisory Committee
of
Minden Hills Council

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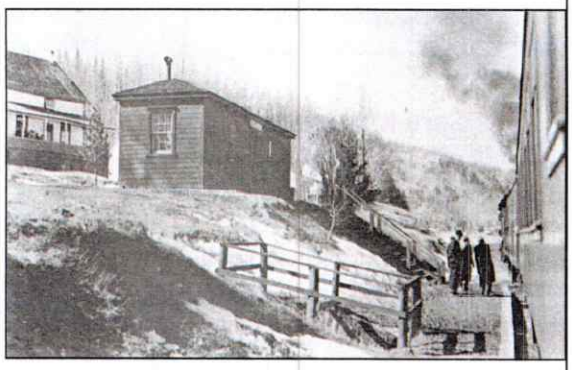
Stories of the IB&O Railway at Baptiste

By Guy Scott and shared by Maryboro Lodge Museum in Fenelon Falls—(permission from both obtained)

The height of land west of Baptiste Lake had one of the steepest railway grades east of the Rockies. The maximum recommended grade on railways was 3%, or 3 feet of rise for every 100 feet of track. The terrain was so rough between Highland Grove and Baptiste that the tracks hugged the shorelines of three lakes (Jordan Lake, Diamond Lake and Baptiste Lake), the theory being that the shorelines were the only level spots around, and it was easier to fill in the shore lines than the valleys and gullies between the hills. At Baptiste Hill, the grade was 3.5%, and it was necessary for the IB&O to park the train on a siding, haul half the cars up the hill, and return to haul the other half up in a second trip!



One time during this operation, the cars broke free from the engine and rolled back down the hill. A section crew was replacing a rail near the bottom of the hill. They were several minutes away from completing the task when they noticed the runaway cars coming down the hill. They calmly finished their job with the hurtling train coming at them. The rail was just nailed down when the cars passed safely over the rail, knocking the crew's hand car into Baptiste Lake and eventually rolling to a stop. It was easier to fish a handcar out of the lake than half a train!

In 1890, an IB&O engine did end up in Baptiste Lake. It slid off the track and into the nearby lake. The insurance agent was called, verified the loss and paid up. After the cheque was cashed, the IB&O crew managed to lift the old engine out of the lake, repair it. With a new name it rejoined the meagre fleet. In fact, derailments were so common on the IB&O that the train crews carried equipment to fix and derailments as best they could.

On one winter run, the engineer noticed the tender wasn't aligned properly to the engine. Closer inspection revealed the wheels of the locomotive were not even on the rails. The engine must have hit ice on the track and jumped off the track. By the marks, they estimated that the engine wheels had travelled off the rails for at least 4 miles. Not to be beaten by such a 'minor' issue, the crew used jacks to raise the locomotive up and back on the rails.
The train went on.

Another time, during a particularly bad tent caterpillar infestation, an IB&O locomotive started slipping on the rails. The crew unhitched the cars and ran the locomotive up and down the line squashing the caterpillars. With the newly improved traction, the train continued.

More on page 3

Our work is often like watching an iceberg. People only see what is visible.
Beneath the surface, day in and day out,
we are consistently doing something to save Irondale's history.

with heartfelt sympathy

Since the last issue
We have had to say
Good-bye to

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Carrie Mae Crego
December 21, 2023
daughter of Dorothy Crego,
sister of Connie, Malcolm,
Luther, War, Claude, Phebe,
Blair as well as deceased
Bonnie, Reg & Alex

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Gary Mansfield
December 25, 2023
husband of Kathleen,
father of Kevin, John & Todd

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

and learned that we lost
Gordon Smith
May 18, 2023
father of Barbara & Thomas
husband of the late Verna
Gordon & Verna both loved
the weekly Euchre games
when they were at their
cottage on White Lake

"Gone from our sight,
but never from our hearts"

EVERLASTING SALAD

1 - 8 oz. box spaghetti
8 or 10 diced apples
1 large can crushed pineapple
Sauce: Juice of 2 lemons
3 tbsp. flour
1 cup sugar
Cook in double boiler.

Cut apples and put in cooled sauce to avoid coloring. Mix spaghetti and pineapple last and put in quart jars. This should stand 24 hours before serving. When ready to serve, beat 1 pint of cream and stir into mixture. Makes about 2½ qt.

Everlasting Salad

1—8 oz box spaghetti
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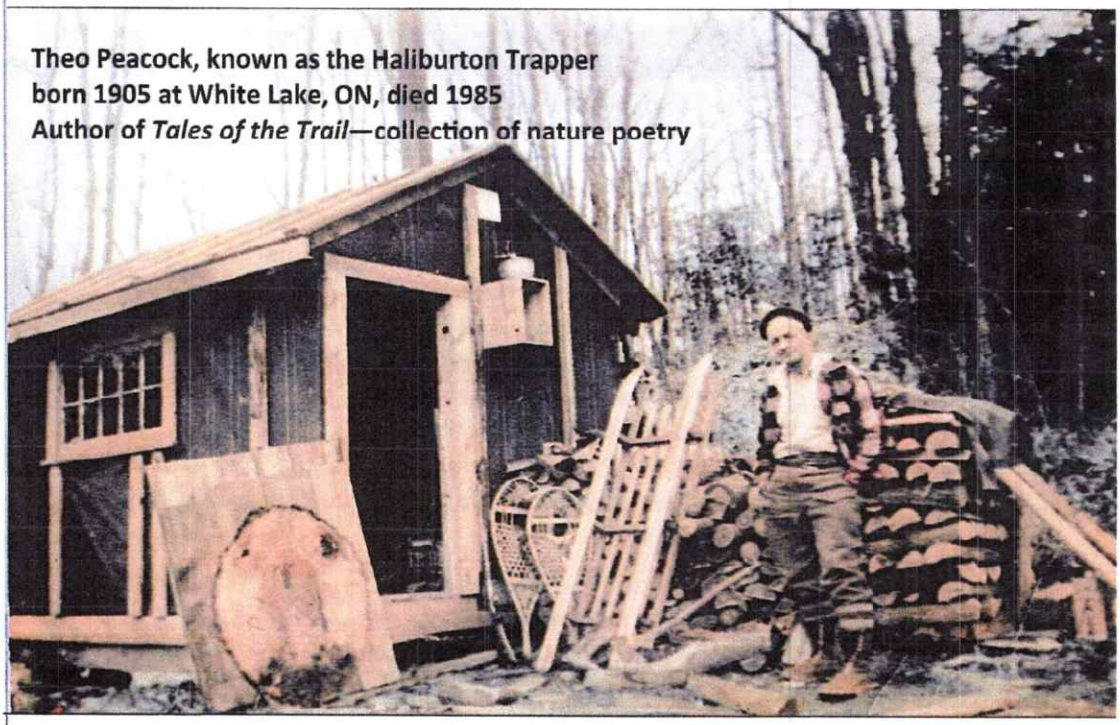
3 tbsp flour
1 cup sugar
Cook in double boiler.

Cut apples and put in cooled sauce to avoid colouring.
Mix spaghetti and pineapple last and put in quart jars. This should stand 24 hours before serving.
When ready to serve, beat 1 pint of cream, stir into mixture. Makes about 2 1/2 qts

Barbara Gordon submitted this recipe, found while going through old cookbooks from rural Alberta. Anybody game to try the recipe and let us know the outcome?



Theo Peacock, known as the Haliburton Trapper
born 1905 at White Lake, ON, died 1985
Author of *Tales of the Trail*—collection of nature poetry

YES - I want to add my support to the *Waterfall of Poppies* project.

Donations can be - cheque payable to B.L.C.D. and mailed to Box 113, Irondale, ON K0M 1X0
- etransfer to historical@IrondaleOntario.ca
- cash given to one of our board members

Donations of $20 or more will be issued an official income tax receipt.

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF EUCHRE
Just for the Fun of it
IRONDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE
corner of Irondale Rd and Line Drive Rd
play starts 7pm sharp

FROM BARBARA GORDON'S collection

JOE GOUDIE - HAPPY VALLEY Dad used to have a little one gallon wooden keg with a bung on it. He'd fill that up with molasses. In the winter time you could turn that bung on in the morning going to school and turn it off again when you came back at dinner time—
it was running so slow.

Silver Boxes

My words were harsh & hasty
And they came without a thought.
Then I saw the pain & anguish
That my bitter words had brought.

Bitter words that I had spoken
Made me think back through the past;
Of how many times I'd uttered
Biting words whose pain would last.

Then I wondered of the people
I had hurt by things I'd said;
All the ones I had discouraged
When I didn't use my head.

Then I thought about my own life
Of painful words I've heard;
And of the times I'd been discouraged
By a sharp and cruel word.

And now clearly I remember
All the things I might have done;
But, by a word I was discouraged
And they never were begun.

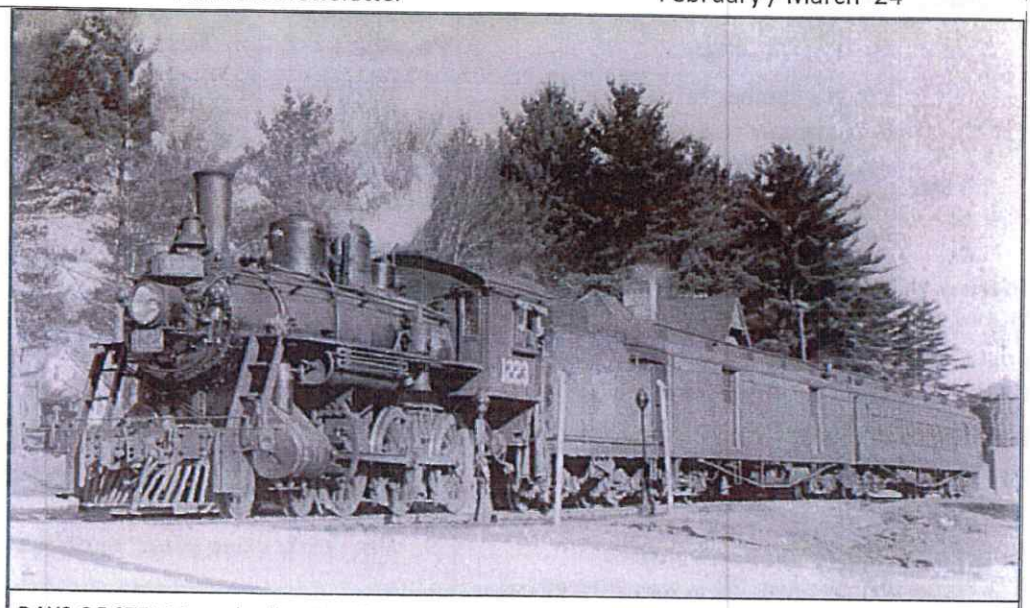
So, help my words be sliver boxes,
Neatly wrapped up with a bow;
That I give to all so freely,
As through each day I gladly go.

Silver boxes full of treasure,
Precious gifts from above;
That all the people I encounter
Might have a box of love.

Florence Littauer (1928-2020)
Author of *Personality Plus* and many others.

~~ ~~

I have always loved this poem. At one time I had wrapped small boxes in tinfoil. I gave them away with a copy of this poem.



DAYS OF STEAM on the "I.B.& O." is recalled by this photograph made on Easter Saturday, April 12, 1952, of CNR Engine #1223 and train #323 on the point of leaving Bancroft, Ont., for Howland Junction over what was once the Irondale, Bancroft & Ottawa Railway. No. 1223, presently No. 1520, is being held at Stratford for CRHA.

Photograph by O.S.A. Lavallee.

March hosts St. Patrick's Day, green & Irish prevails in décor and foods.

From matters of the heart to thoughtful advice and stirred encouragement these Irish proverbs, phrases and quotes from famous Irishmen will move you.
Thought we would share the following .....

"It's easy to halve the potato where there is love".
Meaning: When you are in love you will share everything together.

"A pretty face doesn't boil the kettle".
Meaning: If you marry a beautiful woman she may not like housework much.

"A windy day is not the time to fix your roof".
Meaning: No point in trying to do things when it is too late.

"A cat purrs for his own good".
Meaning: Don't think the cat is purring for you, he's doing it for himself.

"Many times, a man's mouth breaks his nose".
Meaning: What gets you in trouble is mouthing off.

"When spring comes dreams begin".
Meaning: Spring can inspire us after a harsh winter.

"The quiet pigs get the meal".
Meaning: Instead of squealing the smart pig goes for the food.

"Whisper quietly when there's gossip".
Meaning: People pay much more attention when you seem to be including only them.

Susie's Musings

We are like books. Most people only see our cover, the minority reading only the introduction and many people believe the critics. Few will know our content.

There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is once you get older you stop being polite and start being honest. (*I would like to think you can be honest and polite.)*

It all begins and ends in your mind. What you give your power to, has power over you if you allow it.

Be crazy, be stupid, be silly, be weird.
Be whatever ... because life is too short to be anything but happy.

Courage doesn't mean you don't get afraid. Courage means you don't let fear stop you.

Focus on the step in front of you, not the whole staircase.

Patricia's Trivia — Test Your Brain Cells

1. What orbits the earth at an average altitude of about 400 kilometres?
2. Where were the 1988 Winter Olympic Games held?
3. What Canadian crooner wrote the Donny Osmond hit 'Puppy Love'?
4. What is the V-shaped space between your thumb and forefinger called?
5. What African nation has currency called the leone?
6. What Irish rock band was honoured by the Kennedy Centre in Dec 2022?
7. What Raptor scored a career record of 52 points in a game Dec 2021?
8. What rapper and singer had a 2019 hit with the song 'Circles'?
9. What early video game was released by Atari in 1972?
10. What empire fell and ended about AD476?
11. What famous stone helped historians decode hierogly phics?
12. What communications system consists of 24 satellites in six orbits?

Answers found elsewhere in this issue.

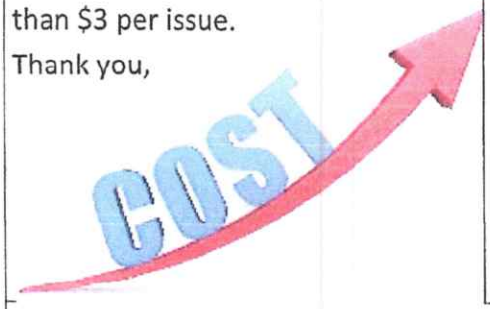
FROM BARBARA GORDON'S collection

FROM ROSE MICHELIN-NORTH WEST RIVER LABRADOR Mom always saved a piece of pork skin. that piece of pork skin might have been a month old and was always kept into a bottle. It was for greasing' the baking pan. You wouldn't go over and take butter or lard out of the cupboard and go and grease the pan with it. That's too wasteful, you wouldn't be able to do that

Everything these days ...
Costs are rising

Printing and postage costs are going up as is everything else these days.

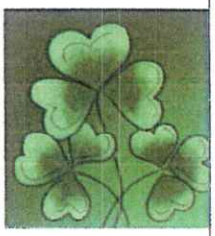
If you are receiving your newsletter by Canada Post, please consider sending us $20 a year towards those costs. Works out to a little more than $3 per issue.
Thank you,



We Would Love to have you join us

Valentines' Dinner
Saturday February 10 - Irondale Community Centre
Menu being planned

St. Patrick's Breakfast
Sunday March 17 - 9am to 11am
Irondale Community Centre
Order from the menu. $15 per person



Mother's Day Tea ... celebrating Mom's a month early!
Sunday April 7 -
fancy sandwiches, homemade scones, delightful desserts
$25 per person

Patricia's Trivia Answers — How did you do?

1) International Space Station, 2) Calgary Alberta, 3) Paul Anka, 4) the purlicue, 5) Sierra Leone, 6) U2, 7) Pascal Siakam 8) Post Malone 9) Pong 10) the Roman Empire 11) the Rosetta Stone 12) global positioning system GPS

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Irondale Events are advertised in these local papers - available at most stores across the county.

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY | The Times MINDEN ONTARIO | County Life Celebrating arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands

~ Irondale Calendar of Events ~

These are tentative dates - depends on state of pandemic and rental of community centres.
Please be sure to check the appropriate website and/or Facebook pages to get up to date information

2023	Unless otherwise noted - Tickets available online at www.IrondaleOntario.ca or call/text 705-457-8438
Sat. Feb. 10	**Valentines' Dinner** with Trivia please watch our Facebook page, website and/or your email for finalized plans. *B.L.C.D. event*
Sun. Mar 17	St. Patty's Breakfast - Doors open at 9am. Breakfast served until 11am. $15 per person. Proceeds to Irondale's history. Breakfast menu available, you choose the combination you want to enjoy.
Sun. Apr 7	**Mother's Day Tea** We can't wait for May. We are celebrating Mother's everywhere today. Fancy sandwiches, homemade scones, delightful desserts. $25 per person *B.L.C.D. event*
Sat. May 11	**Dinner** held at the Gooderham Community Centre. Doors open 5pm. Dinner at 6pm. Menu still to be planned. Loonie auction after dessert. $20 pp *B.L.C.D. event*
Sun. Jun 2	First Church Service of the season. 10am—come as you are. Refreshments and conversation served after the service.
Sat. Jun 8	Welcome Back! We are celebrating with our **Spring Fling**. 11am - 4pm We are honouring Father's Day - dad gets something extra when his family eats at our BBQ. Vendors, displays, tours 1019 Elm Rd - property of Irondale's historical church. NO ADMISSION CHARGED. *B.L.C.D. event*
Sat. July 13	**Concert on the Lake** - Great music from the comfort of your own boat, canoe or paddleboard. Music starts at 6:30pm Tickets available in advance. Check *www.sdlca.ca* for more details.
Sat. July 20	**Dinner & Loonie Auction** Popular dinner, held at the **Gooderham Community Centre**. Doors open 5pm, buffet at 6pm. Remember bring loonies for after dinner fun. *B.L.C.D. event with proceeds supporting Irondale's history.*
Sat. Aug 3 **Sun. Aug 4**	Salerno Devil's Lake Cottage Association's AGM Salerno Devil's Lake Cottage Association's Canoe Race, BBQ and Children's Games check www.sdlca.ca for up to date information.
Sat. Sept 21	**Harvest Festival** - We celebrate the fall season with BBQ, Bake Sale, vendors, contests and more 11am – 4pm on the heritage property at 1019 Elm Rd FREE ADMISSION *B.L.C.D. event*
Sat. Nov 2 to Mon. Nov 11	**Service, Courage & Sacrifice** - 10am to 4pm each day - a display of flags of those brave individuals associated with Irondale, that served Canada in various aspects of war. Wander the grounds in remembrance, visit indoor displays of military memorabilia. New flags & displays from last year!